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January 28, 1969

Mr. Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

Hudson Institute is planning a program of presentations and discussions for a small group of government employees and consultants interested in Vietnamese policy issues at the Charter House Motor Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia, from Friday dinner, February 14th, through Sunday lunch, February 16th; we would be very pleased to have you or a member of your staff attend as our guest.

Since the program will be a Hudson Institute activity and completely unofficial, it will be unclassified, although all those in attendance will be government employees and Hudson staff and consultants. All discussion will be off-the-record and no one will be expected to speak for his office. In order to keep the group small enough for effective informal discussion, we are trying to limit attendance to one or two people from each office concerned, but if you would like to send more, please let me know and we will try to find a place.

The purpose of the meeting is to analyze some new and old concepts about Vietnam in a reasonably thorough and systematic way and to get a thorough criticism of a number of current recommendations and suggestions--with of course some emphasis on our own work and ideas. This seems to be a most appropriate time to start such an exchange of views and information. We

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director
(Mr. Goodwin)

Attached is FYI. We prepared a reply for the Director which declined the invitation and stated that we felt it inappropriate for Agency personnel to participate in the session on this subject which is so deeply involved in policy considerations.

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Mr. Richard Helms

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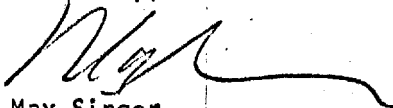
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would appreciate a reply by February 5th, or as soon thereafter as possible, to Mr. Merch Walls, our Special Programs Director, who will be responsible for all arrangements. We will send written background material for the program in advance to all those whose names are received in time.

The Charter House Motor Hotel is about 12 miles south of Washington on Shirley Highway (U.S. 95; Va. 350). We will take care of arranging rooms for participants there Friday and Saturday nights, and all meals, without cost to the participants or the government.

I hope you will be able to participate in our meeting.

Sincerely,



Max Singer
President

MS/rp